1st March 1929]

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not that it contains any confidential information which could not be seen by hon. Members. Such departmental publications are not generally distributed to the public."

Mr. C V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Are not the members of this House entitled to get any copy of any Government publication ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not all Government publications."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" I appeal to you, Mr. President. Under the instructions given to us we are entitled to get copies of all local Government publications."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question may be raised at the end of question-time."

Number of clerks and their work in the Registration offices.

* 1600 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to question No. 504 answered on 10th October 1928 regarding the number of clerks and their work in the Registration offices in the Presidency, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place before the Council the report called for and the action taken or contemplated to be taken thereon ?

A.—Answers to the several clauses of question No. 504 are appended. [a] The question whether the clerical establishment of the Registration Department requires to be strengthened permanently and if so, to what extent, has already been under the consideration of Government separately.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire whether the hon. the Minister's attention has not been drawn to the reports of the Registrars of various districts in which it is stated that most of the offices are undermanned and overworked and that work had to be done on Sundays and other holidays ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I think on a former occasion I answered a question of the hon. Member that wherever there was overwork, the District Registrars were authorized to employ temporary staff and that in places where it was a permanent feature the question of strengthening the staff had been considered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" My question is whether the attention of the hon. the Minister has been drawn to the reports of the several Registrars that their staff are undermanned and overworked ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Probably that is the reason why the Inspector-General of Registration has suggested the revision of the staff of registration offices."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister is aware that in some of these offices Indian Christian clerks are compelled to work even on Sundays."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am not aware of it."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will he make enquires ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" If the hon. Member will kindly give details or some instances like that I can enquire."

[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 357–358 infra.